

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00466 201347Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1922

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, AG

SUBJ: CONTACTS WITH MINISTERS ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT

1. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF NO ACTION ON REQUESTS I HAD MADE FOR APPOINTMENTS TO CALL ON VARIOUS MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS, APPOINTMENTS ARE COMING THROUGH WITH SURPRISING SPEED. MORNING FEBRUARY 19 I CALLED ON CHIEF OF GENDARMERIE, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE IN THAT ORDER. WHILE SECRETARY NATIONAL DEFENSE WAS VERY CAUTIOUS, OTHER TWO BOTH INDICATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN POSSIBILITIES COOPERATION THEIR RESPECTIVE DOMAINS. AM REPORTING THEIR REMARKS IN SEPARATE TELEGRAMS.

2. I HAVE RESPONDED TO CHIEF OF GENDARMERIE AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WITH PROMISE TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES. CERTAIN OTHER MINISTERS, E.G., MINISTER OF HEALTH, MAY RAISE SIMILAR QUESTIONS AND ALGERIANS SEEM TO BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND OTHER TYPES OF AID IN VARIOUS FIELDS. HERETOFORE WE HAVE NOT GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO THIS POSSIBILITY BECAUSE OF BOUMEDIENE'S PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY, BUT IT NOW APPEARS WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE POLICY DECISION AS TO WHAT, IF ANYTHING, CAN BE DONE IN AID FIELD, EITHER ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS OR GRATIS.

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3. WE SEE TWO BROAD POSSIBILITIES. ONE IS FOR AD HOC
RESPONSE TO EACH REQUEST AS IT COMES UP, EXAMINING IT
ON ITS MERITS AND DECIDING WHAT WE WANT TO DO ABOUT IT.
OTHER IS TO CONSIDER WHETHER WE WANT SOME BROADER
UNDERSTANDING WITH ALGERIANS ON QUESTION TECHNICAL
COOPERATION IN PARTICULAR. WE UNCLEAR AS TO ATTITUDES
IN WASHINGTON ON THIS QUESTION, BUT WOULD FAVOR FIRST
APPROACH AT LEAST INITIALLY. EVEN IN UNLIKELY EVENT WE
WERE READY CONSIDER AID AGREEMENT, DO NOT BELIEVE
ALGERIANS READY FOR ONE.PARKER

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